

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 IO-03 ISO-00 SS-14 SR-02 ORM-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-04 /069 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CE:BAFLATIN:LCB

APPROVED BY D:MASAMUELS

EUR:WSTABLER

S/S:JPMOFFAT

----- 061963

P R 091955Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 222730

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, AORG, UN, SREF, AU, UR, NL, IS

SUBJECT:DEPUTY SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 7 MEETING WITH
AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR

1. ON OCTOBER 7, AMBASSADOR ARNO HALUSA OF AUSTRIA CALLED
ON DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL TO PRESENT HIS GOVERNMENT'S
VIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING THREE TOPICS: (A) "THIRD UN CITY"
STATUS FOR VIENNA, (B) THE TRANSIT OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS
FROM THE SOVIET UNION THROUGH AUSTRIA, (C) THE SCHEDULE FOR
CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. DETAILS
FOLLOW:

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2. VIENNA AS A THIRD UN CITY: AMBASSADOR HALUSA GAVE THE

DEPUTY SECRETARY A COPY OF THE SAME AIDE MEMOIRE HE PRESENTED TO IO'S DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BLAKE ON SEPTEMBER 30 (STATE 215628). HE EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS REPEATING HIS PRESENTATION TO THE DEPUTY SECRETARY BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO RAISE THIS MATTER AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS. AMBASSADOR HALUSA SAID THAT AUSTRIA WAS NOT BIDDING FOR THE LARGE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES, BUT ONLY FOR ORDINARY, ROUTINE MEETINGS. ALTHOUGH THE AUSTRIANS COULD ALSO MAKE THEIR NEW EXCESS CAPACITY OF OFFICE AND CONFERENCE SPACE AT DONAUPARK AVAILABLE TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, LIKE OPEC AND IIASA, THEY WOULD

PREFER TO OFFER IT TO THE UN UNDER THE SAME TERMS ALREADY GIVEN UNIDO AND IAEA: 99 YEARS AT ONE SCHILLING PER ANNUM. THEREFORE, THE AUSTRIANS WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE US WOULD SUPPORT THEM IN THEIR ENDEAVOR TO ATTRACT MORE UN ACTIVITIES TO VIENNA. AMBASSADOR HALUSA ADDED THAT A STRONG UN PRESENCE IN VIENNA WOULD PROVIDE A CERTAIN SECURITY ELEMENT FOR NEUTRAL AUSTRIA.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE WILL GIVE THE AUSTRIAN OFFER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

3. JEWISH EMIGRE TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTRIA: AMBASSADOR HALUSA OBSERVED THAT, ALTHOUGH IT HAD APPEARED EARLIER THAT THE US AND THE USSR HAD REACHED SOME AGREEMENT ON AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION, IT NOW APPEARS FROM PRESS SPECULATION THAT ANY SUCH UNDERSTANDING "HAS NOW SLIPPED AWAY." HE EXPLAINED THAT AUSTRIA WOULD APPRECIATE SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL OF THESE EMIGRANTS PASS THROUGH VIENNA EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL AND OTHER DESTINATIONS.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS NOT POLITICALLY REALISTIC TO EXPECT THE USSR TO AGREE TO RELEASE ANY SPECIFIC NUMBER OF EMIGRANTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPORTED THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE, WHERE THE LATTER HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT INTEND TO STATE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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SUCH FIGURE. NOTING THAT THE PRESS IS CURRENTLY SPECULATING THAT THERE IS AN "AGREED" FIGURE OF 60,000, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT THE CURRENT FLOW IS ACTUALLY AT A RATE OF 23,000 PER ANNUM AS OPPOSED TO ABOUT 35,000 LAST YEAR.

AMBASSADOR HALUSA HOPED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD AT LEAST INDICATE AN APPROXIMATE MONTHLY RATE WHICH THE AUSTRIAN

AUTHORITIES COULD USE FOR THE GUIDANCE. HE WARNED THAT THERE IS A LIMIT TO THE CARRYING CAPACITY OF AUSTRIA'S TRANSIT FACILITIES, AND STATED THAT AUSTRIA WOULD BE GRATIFIED IF OTHER NATIONS COULD HELP SHARE THIS BURDEN. IN THIS REGARD, HE SINGLED OUT THE NETHERLANDS, BECAUSE OF THE TRADITIONAL DUTCH INTEREST IN THE WELFARE OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE. AMBASSADOR HALUSA STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT AUSTRIA IS WILLING TO CONTINUE TO CARRY A FAIR SHARE OF THE TRAFFIC.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT, IF IT APPEARED THAT AUSTRIA'S FACILITIES WERE LIKELY TO BECOME OVERTAXED,

WE WOULD BE WILLING TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER, AND WOULD JOIN IN THE CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL ROUTES.

AMBASSADOR HALUSA THEN BRIEFLY CALLED ATTENTION TO THE RELATED PROBLEM OF RETURNEES, STATING THAT VIENNA'S WELFARE AUTHORITIES ARE NOW CARING FOR SOME 700 FORMER JEWISH EMIGRANTS WHO ARE TRYING TO RETURN TO THE USSR, BUT ARE BEING DENIED VISAS BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

STATING OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRIA'S DIFFICULTIES, THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ASSURED AMBASSADOR HALUSA THAT WE WOULD KEEP VIENNA INFORMED IF WE LEARN ANY MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC.

4. PROPOSED KREISKY VISIT: AMBASSADOR HALUSA OBSERVED THAT CHANCELLOR BRUNO KREISKY HAD BEEN INVITED TWICE BY PRESIDENT NIXON TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US HAD INDICATED, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT THE INVITATION WOULD BE RENEWED BY PRESIDENT FORD-- BUT THAT THE DATES HAVE NOT, AS YET, BEEN SET. THIS
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DELAY IS CREATING PROBLEMS FOR KREISKY, WHO HAS A BUSY DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SCHEDULE THIS AUTUMN, BUT IS STILL SAVING A MID-NOVEMBER TIME-BLOCK FOR THIS PURPOSE. AMBASSADOR HALUSA EXPLAINED THAT AUSTRIA'S NEUTRAL STATUS MAKES AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE US VERY IMPORTANT FOR KREISKY. ALL TOP AUSTRIAN LEADERS ARE INVITED TO THE SOVIET UNION VERY SOON AFTER TAKING OFFICE-- AND OFTEN THEREAFTER. SENIOR SOVIET LEADERS ALSO VISIT AUSTRIA FREQUENTLY. THIS CREATES AN OPTICAL IMBALANCE AUSTRIA WOULD LIKE TO COUNTER THROUGH A KREISKY VISIT TO THE US, THEREBY DISPELLING ANY FALSE NOTIONS THAT AUSTRIA IS LEANING TOWARD THE EAST.

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THE AUSTRIAN VIEWPOINT. UNFORTUNATELY, THE PRESSURES OF

WORLD CRISES OFTEN LIMIT OUR ABILITY TO GIVE SUFFICIENT
TIME TO OUR FRIENDS, BUT WE HOPE THAT WE CAN SOON BE BACK
IN TOUCH ON THIS MATTER. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, VALUE ADDED TAXES, EMIGRANTS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE222730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BAFLATIN:LCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740287-0366
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741059/aaaabygg.tel
Line Count: 172
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EPUTY SECRETARY'S OCTOBER 7 MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, AORG, SREF, AU, UR, NL, IS, UN, (KREISKY, BRUNO), (HALUSA, ARNO)
To: VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005